

Remarks:

1. Applicant thanks Examiner for his careful review of the present application and appreciates the conditional allowance of claims 3, 4, and 6. Applicant has amended the claims 1, 6, and 7 and requests continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

2. **Amendments to the Claims:** Claim 1 has been amended to recite a mounting section that is anchorable to the sidewall of a ski by means of a carbide-stud post fastener. Attaching a wheel-mounting means to a carbide-stud post fastener is shown in FIGS. 13 and 15 of the application as filed and discussed in paragraphs [0061] – [0063] and the bracket shown in FIGS. 25A - 26. It is clear from these descriptions, that the bracket is anchorable to the sidewall of the ski by means of the same carbide-stud post fasteners. Claim 6 was amended to recite a mounting section that is cantilevered over the top of the sidewall. This “cantilevered” section is shown in FIGS. 25A – 26 and thus, this amendment introduces no new subject matter. Claim 7 was amended to recite a vertical mounting surface. This mounting surface was recited in previously presented claims 1 and 6 and is shown in FIGS. 25A – 26. Claim 8 includes the subject matter of previously presented claim 7. None of these amendments introduces new subject matter and Applicant respectfully requests approval and entry of these amended claims.

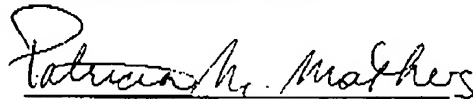
3. **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):** Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 as being anticipated by **Khennache et al., U.S. Patent 6,102,413**. Examiner asserts that Khennache et al. discloses a mounting bracket having a base plate anchorable to an inner surface of a bottom of a ski, with a mounting section extending substantially parallel to the sidewall. Claim 1 as currently amended recites a bracket having a mounting section that is anchorable to the sidewall of the ski by means of a carbide-stud post fastener. Khennache et al. does not disclose a bracket anchorable or mountable to a carbide-stud post fastener in the sidewall of the ski. Applicant asserts that Khennache et al. does not disclose all the elements of and, thus, does not anticipate, currently amended claim 1.

4. Claims 3 – 8 are dependent claims, all depending directly or indirectly from claim 1 and, thus, these claims include all the limitations of claim 1. Applicant asserts that claim 1 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 3 – 8 also contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw his rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1 and 5 and allow claims 1 and 3 – 8.

5. **Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):** Examiner rejected claim 7 as being unpatentable over **Khennache et al.**, in view of **Rogers (U.S. Patent 3,777,829)**. The claim 7 rejected by Examiner is now claim 8, which depends from claim 1. Applicant asserts that claim 1 contains allowable subject matter and that, accordingly, claim 8 also contains allowable subject matter, as it includes all the limitations of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw his rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allow claim 8.

6. Applicant has traversed all rejections raised by Examiner and requests entry and approval of claims 1 and 2 – 8, as currently presented. This petition is being filed along with an RCE Request form and the appropriate fee, within two months of the date of the Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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